



RECORDINGS

OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY CLERK

118 N. Clark Street, Room 120, Chicago, Illinois 60602

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Recording Operations Petition - Unlawful Restrictive Covenant Modification -Information-

Introduction

55 ILCS 5/3-5048 is a law that allows petitions to be submitted to the Clerk's Office to address unlawful restrictive covenants. Unlawful restrictive covenants are restrictions inserted into real estate documents that discriminate based on race, color, religion, and national origin. Unlawful restrictive covenants are generally found in documents that were recorded during the early decades of the 20th century and before. The law allows petitioners to submit the document with the unlawful restrictive covenant to the Clerk's Office for review by the State's Attorney's Office. Unlawful Restrictive Covenant Modification documents, if approved, will be recorded into the chain of title with the unlawful restrictive covenant language containing a strike through.

Information

To research records recorded before 1985, petitioners will have to come downtown to our Concourse level to conduct research. This type of archival research may take an extended amount of time as records may need to be retrieved from archived books or microfilm. After petitioners have completed their research and identified the document with an unlawful restrictive covenant in a chain of title, they may submit their research into an unlawful restrictive covenant along with a petition. The petition must be submitted on the form entitled, "Petition – Unlawful Restrictive Covenant Modification." If the petitioner is an entity, legal certifications may be required. All required documents should be mailed to the Clerk's Office's Fraud Unit at the address listed below.

**Office of the Cook County Clerk
Attn: Fraud Unit – Recording Operations
118 N. Clark Street, Room 120
Chicago, Illinois 60602**

Note: The information provided herein does not constitute legal advice or legal services. If you have questions regarding your situation, you may wish to inquire with legal counsel. To locate legal counsel, you may wish to inquire with the local bar associations at www.chicagobar.org and www.isba.org.